



Spotlight on the District

Mike Bunch

Resource Management Officer

By Mark Kane

A District “newbie” to some, Mike Bunch started with the District in April 1999, but has successfully found a way to excel through 23 years of government service, while barely leaving his birthplace of Moline, Ill.

As the Chief of the Resource Management Office, Bunch ensures his employees learn what career opportunities are available for them so they can compete against government employees located in areas prone to better career opportunities. Bottomline, he wants them to take advantage of the same kind of opportunities that have helped his career.

His efforts to equally raise his employees’ awareness of career opportunities recently earned him the 2000 Equal Employment Opportunity Champion of the Year award at the District’s Women’s Equality Day luncheon, August 9.

“I was surprised I got it,” said Bunch. “Because I was being recognized for doing what you’re supposed to do. All the chiefs are expected to do those kind of things.”

Bunch insists the award is a reflection of the success of his office.

“It’s a bi-product of my office which a vast majority are women, and by briefing them about what career opportunities are available to them it increases their success,” said Bunch. “That is a measure of a supervisor, to develop your employees so they can move on.”

Knowing what it takes to move on is exactly what Bunch has taken time to carefully figure out.

“Typically to get to the highest rating you’ll have to interact with higher officials,” said Bunch. “But here at the Rock Island District employees may not have the same opportunities as those located in other areas. When you figure out how to give your employees those same opportunities, you’re doing your

standards after routinely scouring the Internet for the most up-to-date changes in the CP11 program. He not only passed the information on to his employees, but he produced a PowerPoint demonstration and briefed the local chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers.

Bunch also received the EEO Champion of the Year award for his presentation of Chief Blackhawk, made to educate his audience about the rich cultural history of the Indian people of the Quad City area. He also presented a resource management business briefing to a class of high school business students.

Bunch began his career with the Army in 1974 as a keypunch operator while earning his college credits at night.

He also worked for the Army Armament Materiel Readiness Command, and the Information Systems Command, both located at Rock Island Arsenal.

Bunch lives with his wife Julie and their two sons Greg, 16, and Ryan, 13, in Coal Valley, Ill.

His hobbies include softball, basketball and collecting music, “that ranges from 60s Deep Purple to Blue Grass,” said Bunch.

Bunch’s advice to anyone reading this article is to, “be able to enjoy yourself and don’t take your work home with you.”

“I was in intensive care for four days and almost had to have a heart transplant and I never wished that I should’ve spent more time at work,” said Bunch. “Most important ... treat people the way you want to be treated.”



Photo by Mark Kane

Mike Bunch, Resource Management, discusses one of many daily office issues with Pat Ballman, Resource Management.

employees right.”

Bunch stressed how new standards, especially in the CP11 (comptroller) career program, will impact his employees’ careers.

“By the new standards the individuals in Resource Management today wouldn’t be qualified to hold their own position if the rules that are coming down the pike are enforced,” said Bunch. “Right now they’re looking for higher education at lower grades with an emphasis on on-going education.”

Bunch discovered some of the new

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Emily Bowen, park Ranger, Lake Red Rock, talks to Don Bardole, park ranger, Mississippi River Visitor Center, during a recent personal watercraft held in the Quad Cities.

Photo by Mark Kane